Date: April 2, 2019
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager
From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: African Delegation to Visit Long Beach to Learn About Programs -- "Empowering Youth to Strengthen Communities and Prevent Violence"

On Monday, April 8, 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department), Community Impact Division, will host the International Visitors Council of Los Angeles (IVCLA), a nonprofit organization that implements the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program for professional and cultural exchanges. The purpose of this visit is to foster a learning exchange between delegates from various African countries and the City of Long Beach, exploring the topic of "Empowering Youth to Strengthen Communities and Prevent Violence." The 11-person delegation roster is attached for your review.

The delegation will travel to several cities in the United States, including Los Angeles and Long Beach. During their visits, they will meet with their counterparts, learn about different prevention programs for at-risk youth, and gain an understanding of support services for gang-involved youth and their families. The Health Department has coordinated an interdepartmental panel, which will provide an overview of the community's gang violence history, and discuss steps taken to reduce gang violence through partnerships with community-based organizations and the State government. The panel includes:

- **City Prosecutor's Office**
  - Chronic truancy, diversion, tattoo removal, mentoring
- **Long Beach Police Department**
  - Gang History in Long Beach
  - Human Trafficking Diversion Strategies
- **Health Department - Safe Long Beach**
  - LB Gang Resistance Intervention Prevention program (LBGRIP)
  - My Sister's Keeper
  - My Brother's Keeper

We invite you, or a member of your staff, to attend. The learning exchange will take place on Monday, April 8th, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., in the Chief's conference room at LBPD Headquarters. Please contact Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Program Coordinator, Community Impact Division, at (562) 570-6730, to RSVP or if you need additional information.

**ATTACHMENT**

**CC**
- Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
- Kevin Jackson, Deputy City Manager
- Doug Haubert, City Prosecutor
- Richard Conant, Deputy Chief, Long Beach Police
- Teresa Chandler, Human Services Bureau Manager
- Rebecca Garner, Administrative Deputy to the City Manager
EMPOWERING YOUTH TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES AND PREVENT VIOLENCE
A Regional Project for Africa

These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

**Primary Program Contact:** Ms. Natalia Lvovich, Director of International Programs, International Visitors Council of Los Angeles, 3450 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 705, Los Angeles, CA 90010

**Department of State Program Contacts:** Ms. Sara Delson and Ms. Jordan Lachance, Office of International Visitors

**Accompanied By:** Ms. Marie-Paule McNEICE, Administrative Interpreter; Ms. Meredith ROGERS, Interpreter; and Mr. David VIOLET, Interpreter

**March 25 - April 12, 2019**

**PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES**

The Department of State has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

- Examine primary prevention programs for at-risk youth such as family support programs, after school activities, truancy and dropout prevention programs, and job training programs;

- Explore the efforts of schools, community-based organizations, and faith-based groups to intervene before early problem behaviors (ages 7-14) turn into delinquency, criminal activity, and gang involvement;

- Highlight support services for gang-involved youth and their families to help youth make positive choices; and

- Examine rehabilitation and re-entry programs for youth recently released from prison.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Algeria  Mr. Lyes MEZGHICHE
         Project Coordinator, NADA Network Association

Cameroon Mr. Celestin YANDAL
          Mayor, Touboro

Gabon    Mr. Edmond Didier NDOUTOUUMOU MEDZO
          CEO, Urban FM

The Gambia Mr. Marr NYANG
            Founder, The Gambia Participates

Kenya    Ms. Margaret Wambui Nyambura NJAYAKIO
          Assistant Education Officer, Dadaab Refugee Camp, United
          Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Mali     Mr. Hady COULIBALY
          Imam, Mosque N’Goudjétou

Morocco Ms. Bouchra CHERIF
          Actress, Artistic Director, and Teacher, Laboratwart Production
          Company

Niger    Mr. Abdou Samadou YAHAYA
          Director, Religious Affairs, Office of Public Security and
          Religious Affairs, Ministry of Interior

South Sudan Mr. Wani Saki Michael LOTIYU
             Executive Director, Okay Africa Foundation

South Sudan Mr. Tongo James Elisama WARIJA
             Founder and Executive Director, New Page for Peace and
             Development

Togo     Mr. Abdel Nasser ISSA TOURE
          Religious Leader
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Algeria

Name: Mr. Lyes MEZGHICHE

Present Position: Project Coordinator, NADA Network Association

Concurrent Positions: Legal Expert, Private Agricultural Company

Previous Positions: Commercial Agent, Alltex Group, 2011 - 2013

Education/Training: Bachelor’s Degree, Law and Administration Science, University of Algiers, 2011
Certificate of Aptitude, Profession of Lawyer, University of Algiers, 2012

Address: Algiers, Algeria

Languages: Arabic (primary), French

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Professional Background: Mr. Mezghiche is a Project Coordinator for the NADA Network Association. In this role, he leads a project to prevent child labor in Algeria. The program seeks to educate children and improve their financial literacy while deterring their participation in the labor market. In addition to his work with NADA Network Association, Mr. Mezghiche has years of experience mentoring youth and teaching young people to become active participants in civic life.
Cameroon

**Name:** Mr. Celestin YANDAL

**Present Position:** Mayor, Touboro

**Education/Training:**
- Master’s Degree, Law, University of Ngaoundere, 2011
- Bachelor’s Degree, Management of Decentralized Territorial Units, University of Ngaoundere, 2010

**Address:** Touboro, Cameroon

**Languages:** French (primary), English

**U.S. Travel:** No previous U.S. travel

**Professional Background:** Mr. Yandal is the Mayor of Touboro in the northern region of Cameroon. As Mayor, he has worked to strengthen youth development in the region by starting the Touboro Youth Association for Development. Mr. Yandal is interested in examining community peacebuilding and community mobilization initiatives in the United States.
Gabon

Name: Mr. Edmond Didier NDOUTOUMOU MEDZO

Present Position: CEO, Urban FM

Previous Positions:
- Co-Founder and Journalist, Radio Campus, 2005 - 2008

Education/Training: Associate’s Degree, Public Law, Omar Bongo University, 2004

Publications: Various publications in Enoromi cultural magazine

Address: Libreville, Gabon

Languages: Fang/Bulu (primary), French

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Other Travel: France, Netherlands, Rwanda, Togo, United Arab Emirates

Professional Background: Mr. Ndoutoumou Medzo, also known as “Dafresh,” is a radio personality on Urban FM’s morning program, The Dafresh Morning. The show serves as an outlet for listeners to obtain news and to examine social challenges, youth-led initiatives, government matters, health-related topics, and other trending matters in Gabon and the world.
The Gambia

**Name:**  
Mr. Marr NYANG

**Present Position:**  
Founder, The Gambia Participates

**Address:**  
Gambia

**Languages:**  
Wolof (primary), English

**U.S. Travel:**  
No previous U.S. travel

**Other Travel:**  
Ghana

**Professional Background:**  
Mr. Nyang is the founder of The Gambia Participates, a social media movement that promoted voter registration and conducted a get-out-the-vote campaign prior to The Gambia’s presidential elections. The campaign reached 100,000 people both offline and online. Mr. Nyang also provided technical support to the first ever Gambian Presidential Debate between contesting political parties. In addition, he manages a public diplomacy grant for a government transparency and accountability program called “Follow the Money.”
Kenya

Name: Ms. Margaret Wambui Nyambura NJAYAKIO

Present Position: Assistant Education Officer, Dadaab Refugee Camp, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Previous Positions:
- Assistant Education Officer, UNHCR, 2014
- Field Education Officer, Refugee Education Trust, 2012
- Youth Business Officer, Mercy Corps, 2012
- Education Officer, Norwegian Refugee Council, 2009 - 2011
- Field Research Coordinator, Humanitarian Accountability Partnership, 2007 - 2008
- Education Officer, Windle International Kenya, 2005 - 2006

Education/Training:
- Master’s Degree (Candidate), Education Leadership and Management, Kenya Methodist University
- Bachelor’s Degree, Arts and English Literature, Kenyatta University, 2003

Publications: Various publications on international development and humanitarian assistance

Address: Dadaab, Kenya

Languages: Kikuyu (primary), English

U.S. Travel: Washington, DC

Other Travel: Rwanda, Somaliland, Tanzania

Professional Background: Ms. Njayakio is an Assistant Education Officer for the UNHCR. She is based at the Dadaab Refugee Camp complex in Northeast Kenya, bordering Somalia. Ms. Njayakio is interested in examining family support initiatives in the United States, in addition to after-school programs and truancy and dropout prevention programs to prevent gang violence.
Mali

Name: Mr. Hady COULIBALY

Present Position: Imam, Mosque N’Goudjétou

Concurrent Positions: Owner and Director, Ecole Franco-Arabe Radia-I-Al-Ilimi de Niamana

Previous Positions: Manager, Société Sampana S.A., 2002 - 2010

Certificate, Information Technology Professional, Durban University of Technology, 2009

Memberships: Association for the Development of Niamana
High Islamic Council of Commune IV
LIMAMA Niamana
Muslim Association for the Development of the Village of Niamana
Muslim Spiritual Leader Group of Mali
Young Muslims Union of Mali

Address: Bamako, Mali

Languages: Mandingo-Bambara (primary), Arabic, French

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Professional Background: Mr. Coulibaly is the Imam of the Mosque N’Goudjétou. He is also engaged in various community development associations. Mr. Coulibaly is interested in examining best practices in preventing violent extremism, specifically among the youth.
**Morocco**

**Name:** Ms. Bouchra CHERIF

**Present Position:** Actress, Artistic Director, and Teacher, Laboratwart Production Company

**Previous Positions:** Artistic Assistant, Dabateatr, 2016 - 2017

**Education/Training:**
- Training Degree, Arts Education, Cie Gorara Morocco, 2018
- Training Degree, Acting, Higher Institute for Dramatic Arts, 2007

**Address:** Morocco

**Languages:** Arabic (primary), French

**U.S. Travel:** No previous U.S. travel

**Other Travel:** Belgium, Côte D’Ivoire, France, Germany, Lebanon

**Professional Background:** Ms. Cherif is involved in Moroccan theatre, television, and film. She started her own production company, Laboratwart, through which she teaches youth to role-play scenarios reflecting on political dialogue and society. Ms. Cherif is interested in examining approaches to youth engagement through the arts as well as initiatives to help young people avoid crime, violence, extremism, substance abuse, and other destructive behavior.
Niger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Name:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mr. Abdou Samadou YAHAYA</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Present Position:</strong></td>
<td>Director, Religious Affairs, Office of Public Security and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Interior</td>
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</table>
| **Education/Training:** | Master’s Degree, Law, Attagamoun University, 2017  
                        | Bachelor’s Degree, Law and Jurisprudence, Islamic University of Niger, 2003 |
| **Address:**            | Niamey, Niger |
| **Languages:**          | Hausa (primary), Arabic, Djerma/Songhai, French |
| **U.S. Travel:**        | No previous U.S. travel |
| **Other Travel:**       | Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Italy, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia |
| **Professional Background:** | Mr. Yahaya is the Director of Religious Affairs in the Ministry of Interior’s Office of Public Security and Religious Affairs. In this role, he engages on religious issues with many stakeholders, including government, civil society, religious leaders and organizations, and the media. He has also been involved in deradicalization efforts for former extremist group members and has contributed to various community resilience initiatives. Mr. Yahaya would like to expand his knowledge of best practices in preventing violent extremism and strengthening both intra- and interfaith dialogue in the United States. |
**South Sudan**

**Name:** Mr. Wani Saki Michael LOTIYU

**Present Position:** Executive Director, Okay Africa Foundation

**Concurrent Positions:** Youth Representative, High-Level Revitalization Forum, African Union

**Previous Positions:** Program Assistant, Political Parties Department, 2012 - 2013
                      Program Officer, Civil Society, 2014 - 2018

**Education/Training:** Bachelor’s Degree, Development Studies, Gulu University, 2012

**Memberships:** South Sudan Civil Society Forum

**Publications:** Various publications on youth empowerment and peacebuilding

**Address:** Juba, South Sudan

**Languages:** English

**U.S. Travel:** No previous U.S. travel

**Other Travel:** Ethiopia, Uganda

**Professional Background:** Mr. Lotiyu serves as Executive Director of the Okay Africa Foundation. In this role, he works to mobilize civil society organizations to address fundamental issues affecting South Sudanese youth. In addition to his work with the Okay Africa Foundation, Mr. Lotiyu is the Youth Representative to the African Union’s High-Level Revitalization Forum. He is also a co-author of the *South Sudan National Youth Agenda for 2032*. Mr. Lotiyu is interested in observing best practices in promoting civic engagement among youth.
South Sudan

Name: Mr. Tongo James Elisama WARIJA

Present Position: Founder and Executive Director, New Page for Peace and Development

Previous Positions: President, Eastern Africa Youth Forum, 2012
Co-Trainer and Facilitator, National Peace, Healing, and Reconciliation Training for Peace Mobilizers
Civic Education Officer, 2010

Education/Training: Bachelor’s Degree, International Relations and Diplomacy, Busoga University, Uganda, 2017
Diploma, Business Management and Administration, Sudan Christian University College, 2009

Memberships: South Sudan Human Rights Monitors

Address: South Sudan

Languages: English, Arabic

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Other Travel: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Switzerland, Uganda

Professional Background: Mr. Warija is the Founder and Executive Director of New Page for Peace and Development, an NGO that seeks to promote peacebuilding initiatives in the local community. He is interested in examining successes and challenges in community engagement and peacebuilding in the United States.
Togo

Name: Mr. Abdel Nasser ISSA TOURE

Present Position: Religious Leader

Concurrent Position: Electrician

Education/Training: Professional Aptitude Certificate, Sokode Vocational School, 1984

Address: Sokode, Togo

Languages: Ewe (primary), French

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Other Travel: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana

Professional Background: Mr. Issa Toure is a religious leader in Sokode. He works with other community members to reduce inter-political and social tensions, seeking to promote peace and reconciliation. Mr. Issa Toure would like to explore best practices for working with youth, as well as faith-based organizations’ efforts to promote peace and build mutual understanding.